



Faithfulness through the Generations

Dedication Service for Northeast Campus planned for April 18

Since January 21 the new Northeast Campus has been operating smoothly. Students and staff are enjoying the tremendous blessing of their new surroundings. We are still ironing out a few last-minute issues like breakers that keep blowing and keys that don't open the right doors, yet all rooms are fully functional.

Now comes the time to give thanks to God, to celebrate and to dedicate this building! The dedication activities are planned for Friday, April 18. During the day students at Northeast will celebrate with special ceremonies, a lunch, and various activities that highlight God's faithfulness to His people. In the evening, together with Centerpointe Community Christian Reformed Church, we have planned a dedication service with Pastor Ron Klok as our main speaker. The theme for the evening is *Faithfulness through the Generations*.

Please find in this mailing your special

invitation to attend the service, tour the facility and mingle with the community during a stand-up reception. Several dignitaries will also bring greetings and congratulations. This day truly will be a gift from God and a special event in the life of Edmonton Christian School!

Society Calendar

April 18 Friday	Dedication service for NE campus Tours at 6 p.m. Service at 7 p.m.
May 10 Saturday	15 th Annual Goods & Services Auction Senior High campus
May 12 Monday	Spring Society Meeting West Campus: 14345 McQueen Road
September 6 Saturday	Annual Golf Tournament Sandpiper Golf & Country Club

It's that time again!

15th Annual Goods & Services

AUCTION

SATURDAY, MAY 10, 2008 SENIOR HIGH CAMPUS

Concession, Babysitting, Kids' Games & Store

Silent Auction at 4:00 p.m., Live Auction at 5:30 p.m.

Bid on hundreds of terrific products and services

Donations of new items and services accepted until May

Update from your Board

Facilities

At the January meeting of the Edmonton Society for Christian Education the membership approved a motion to increase the mortgage by \$1 million on the Northeast campus. Our total mortgage for both the high school and northeast school is now \$5.6 million while the total cost for the new campus stands at just under \$9 million.

We anticipate that work must soon begin to modernize and renovate our West campus. Much of our maintenance budget and about \$400,000 in financing will be dedicated to this project. The top priority is to fix the roof, which is in sad repair. In addition, we are looking at re-doing the gym floor, painting, modernizing washrooms and classrooms, replacing floors and renovating the staff room and office areas at both the Main and McQueen sites. A committee will soon be in place to determine priorities; we hope that the work can begin this summer.

Governance

Also at the January meeting, the Society approved allowing your Board to amend our agreement with Edmonton Public Schools to include a governance structure that allows for three separate schools, each to be governed by its own principal. Because the proposed amendment to the agreement includes a school name change, the EPS Board of Trustees must approve it; we are waiting for that approval. The ESCE Board is proposing the following school names:

- **Edmonton Christian High School**
- **Edmonton Christian Northeast School**
- **Edmonton Christian West School**

The next step would be to go through the process of appointing principals for each school. The hiring process will be done according to the Society's agreement with Edmonton Public. Advertisements for the positions will soon appear in various publications and websites.

Enrolment Challenges

Northeast campus has been blessed with substantial growth for a number of years. The

new campus was built to accommodate this growth but our enrolment forecasts have been exceeded. In many ways this is a good problem to have, but growth is not without its challenges. Our goal and greatest challenge is to accommodate all families that desire Christian education for their children. We realize, however, that we are at our borrowing limits and so cannot simply build more classrooms.

Another challenge is that our agreement with Edmonton Public sets out the policy by which we must handle oversubscribed grades: new families must apply, be interviewed by mid-April and, should the number of applications exceed the number of spaces available, a process that includes random selection would be implemented to determine who gets into the school.

Some good news has emerged from our continuing discussions with Edmonton Public

Schools: we have asked and they have agreed that, for the next few years, families from St. Albert, Sherwood Park, Spruce Grove and other area communities will be treated the same as Edmonton district families in any random selection process.

Perhaps implementing this selection process will not be necessary. We would like nothing more than to ensure that all who desire our program will receive it. Therefore, we are considering several options to deal with this, with the most promising being using our busing system to transport students to the West Campus where there is more space.

Your Board covets your prayers as they continue to deal with this very important and heartfelt matter. If you have questions, comments or concerns about any of the issues raised in this newsletter, please contact:

Peter Buisman, Executive Director:
peterbuisman@edmchristian.net
476-6281.

We value and appreciate your input and your support!"

Pickup truck needed

The Society is on the lookout for a good, used pickup truck. If you can help, please contact Peter Buisman at 476-6281 or peterbuisman@edmchristian.net